

The University of Houston Law Alumni Association (UHLAA) and University of Houston Law Foundation (UHLF) Statement of Collective Resolve to Stand with the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC) to Combat Systemic Racism

UHLAA and UHLF as alumni organizations, representing over 13,000 law school graduates working in Houston, throughout our nation, and internationally, stand in solidarity with the UHLC, its students, faculty, and staff in condemning racial injustice.

We are fortunate to have studied at one of the most diverse and socially conscious law schools in the country. We have an unparalleled presence in Houston, with 25% of all attorneys in Harris County having graduated from the Law Center. This puts us at the forefront of our legal community and gives us the opportunity to serve on the front lines of the battle to create positive change.

Organizations and individuals across the globe have issued statements condemning the horrific abuse of power we all witnessed on videotape which tragically and regrettably cut short and ended the life of Mr. George Floyd. These statements are important, and it is essential that we voice our outrage. But a statement without action is of little value. We must not only stand in solidarity with Mr. Floyd and other African Americans who have suffered at the hands of corrupt police officers, we must honor their memories by working to prevent this type of tragedy from happening again, and again, and again.

We are trained and experienced problem solvers, critical thinkers, gifted writers, persuasive orators, and community servants who are uniquely positioned to shape the law to end racial injustice and bring meaningful and sustainable change to our local communities. We each have taken an oath sworn to support and protect the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas. To be sure, we have the tools and ability to advocate for justice, condemn injustice, and combat ingrained and institutional racism and intolerance wherever it exists.

We vow in the coming days, weeks, months, and years ahead, as we carry out our respective missions in service to our communities in unity with the Law Center, to bring our collective power and voice to fight for those who are powerless. We pledge to use our skills as lawyers to be proactive change agents to fight racism, discrimination, intolerance, and injustice. As members of the UHLC community, we are obligated to carry the torch for the oppressed, not only in our very own backyard in the Third Ward of Houston where Mr. Floyd grew up, but throughout our state, nation and the world.

Our city and nation need us on the front lines. We are actively identifying ways UHLAA and UHLF can partner more closely together to develop specific and tangible avenues for alumni to use their skill sets to further fight against injustice. We also encourage all of our alumni to contact us and let us know how we can assist them to advance our collective efforts.

We look forward to working with the entire UHLC community in this important and life-saving fight.

We can, we must, and we will, do better.